

In the Claims

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (twice amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising:
 - a body;
 - a neck;
 - one or more strings stretched over said body and said neck;
 - mounting means for mounting said neck to said body; and
 - continually adjustable means to move said neck vertically without changing the angle of said neck relative to said body,
 - said continually adjustable means including a vertical movement means for causing relative vertical movement only between said neck and said body without loosening said neck from said body.
2. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said body and said neck have adjoining means for providing a tightly fitting neck-body interface so that the neck can be securely mounted to said body by said mounting means.
3. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said adjoining means comprises: a neck block attached to said body;
 - said neck block having a receiving recess for the bottom of said neck; and
 - said neck having a bottom approximately the same size as said receiving recess.

4. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 3 wherein guides are attached to the bottom of said neck and said guides are of a dimension so that it can securely accommodate the edges of the bottom of said neck.
5. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 4 wherein said guides are comprised of a self-gliding material.
6. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said adjusting vertical movement means comprises: a height adjustment screw insert fixably secured to said neck; and a height adjustment screw extending from the back of said body through said height adjustment screw insert, said height adjustment screw fixably engaging said body to said neck and providing for the adjustment of the vertical height of said neck relative to said body by turning said height adjustment screw in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to increase or decrease the distance said neck extends from said body.

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8. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 17 wherein the head of said height adjustment screw has a knob or lever fixably secured to it in order to allow the user to easily adjust said height adjustment screw without the need for any tools.
9. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said adjusting vertical movement means comprises a height adjustment screw insert fixably secured to said neck; and a height adjustment screw extending from the back of said body through said height adjustment screw insert, said height adjustment screw fixably engaging said body to said neck and providing for the adjustment of

the vertical height of said neck relative to said body by turning said height adjustment screw in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to increase or decrease the distance said neck extends from said body.

10. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said mounting means comprises neck mounting screws that extend from the neck and are threaded through said body.
11. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said mounting means comprises: neck mounting screws that extend through the bottom of said neck; and threaded recesses in said neck block for receiving said neck mounting screws.
12. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein a spring is inserted in the neck body joint to provide constant pressure on the adjustment means.
13. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 6 wherein a spring is inserted between the bottom of the neck block and the bottom of the neck to provide constant pressure on the neck adjustment screw.
14. (previously presented) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said mounting means comprises a setscrew in said neck and said setscrew applies pressure between the neck and the body when tightened to fixably secure the neck to the body.
15. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said mounting means comprises a setscrew in the bottom wall of said neck, said

setscrew applying pressure on said neck block to fixably secure the neck to the ~~guitar~~ body.

16. (currently amended) The musical instrument as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said adjusting vertical movement means comprises: a height adjustment screw insert fixably secured to said neck block; and a height adjustment screw extending from the top of said neck through said height adjustment screw insert, said height adjustment screw fixably engaging said neck to said body and providing for the adjustment of the vertical height of said neck relative to said body by turning said height adjustment screw in a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction to increase or decrease the distance said neck extends from said body.

17. (previously presented) A stringed musical instrument comprising:

a body;

a neck;

one or more strings stretched over said body and said neck;

mounting means for mounting said neck to said body; and

continually adjustable means to move said neck vertically without changing the angle of said neck relative to said body

wherein said continually adjustable means comprises: a height adjustment screw insert fixably secured to said neck; and

a height adjustment screw extending from the back of said body through said height adjustment screw insert, said height adjustment screw fixably engaging said body to said neck and providing for the adjustment of the vertical height of said neck relative to said body by turning said height adjustment screw in a clockwise or counter-

clockwise direction to increase or decrease the distance said neck extends from said body,

said height adjustment screw extending through a trap plate at the back of the instrument body, said trap plate configured to restrict the vertical movement of said height adjustment screw.